Subject: NaN doesn't work!
Posted by Libo Wang on Mon, 20 Jun 2016 22:11:31 GMT
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Hi, I have an array with negative numbers (-99.0) representing invalid values. I need to use Total to do some calculation, so I'm converting the invalid values to NaN first:

```
print,data[60,31,1]
bad=where(data lt 0.0,cbad)
if cbad gt 0 then data[bad]=nan
print,data[60,31,1]
```

I've got -99.0 from both the print line!! Anybody knows why? I thought I knew how to do some simple IDL coding, now I'm not sure!

Thanks in advance!
Jenny

Subject: Re: NaN doesn't work!
Posted by Dick Jackson on Mon, 20 Jun 2016 23:41:28 GMT
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On Monday, 20 June 2016 15:11:34 UTC-7, lib...@gmail.com wrote:
> Hi, I have an array with negative numbers (-99.0) representing invalid values. I need to use Total to do some calculation, so I'm converting the invalid values to NaN first:
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>
> Thanks in advance!
> Jenny

I think what you want here is
```
  if cbad gt 0 then data[bad]=!VALUES.F_NAN   ; or !VALUES.D_NAN for Double
```

But I'm puzzled: if you ran it exactly as you said, the elements in data[bad] would have been given the value of a variable named 'nan'. For your final print to have given -99.0, that variable 'nan' must have had -99.0 in it. Is that possible? If so, then IDL's doing just what you asked. :-)

You could, of course set the variable before this code section as follows, then it will work fine:
```
  nan = !VALUES.F_NAN   ; or !VALUES.D_NAN for Double
```

Cheers,
-Dick

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